

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 382

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION To recognize Jim Travis, political correspondent for WSMV-TV, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who, throughout their careers, have performed with outstanding professionalism and competence; and

WHEREAS, Jim Travis, political correspondent for WSMV-TV, Channel 4, is one such highly regarded journalist who has served with probity for over 20 years with the station, covering politics and the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, Born in Urbana, Illinois and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jim began his broadcasting career as a student 41 years ago on the campus radio station at the University of Tulsa; following his service in the United States Army as a Radio Operator from 1963-65, he worked at several radio and television stations in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Mr. Travis came to Nashville as a reporter and anchor at Channel 8, which later became Channel 2 after a frequency swap; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Jim moved to WSMV-TV, Channel 4, where he soon became one of the most informed and accurate political commentators in Nashville and for the State of Tennessee; he received the Peabody Award (often called the Pulitzer Prize of broadcasting) for a documentary that he produced on the use of deadly force; and

WHEREAS, During his Nashville career, Mr. Travis has covered the 1984, 1988, 1992 and 2000 Democratic Conventions; Al Gore's 1988 and 1992 Presidential and Vice-Presidential campaigns in which he followed the candidate across the country; the 1992 Presidential Inauguration; and every Tennessee Governor since Ray Blanton, most of the Gubernatorial Inaugurations; and innumerable debates involving the United States Congress, the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Governorship and the Presidency of the United States; and

WHEREAS, For three decades, Jim has covered the political figures of the City of Nashville and the State of Tennessee and has developed an intimate working knowledge of this State's political landscape; his expert ability to find his way through the occasional political morasses and tense contentious issues, while consistently providing lucid, objective and accurate coverage of the political life of Tennessee and the Capitol Hill scene, is legendary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Travis has filed more than 10,000 individual stories, a body of work by which his viewers has gained insight into the inner workings of government, significantly contributing to their ability to make informed assessment of, and decisions about, their elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, May 25, 2001 was Mr. Travis's last day as a working reporter, and he will now turn his attention to the slower-paced attractions of life at his home in Hickman County; he plans to hone his musical skills by playing the piano, guitar and banjo, enjoy listening to Bluegrass music and the Nashville Symphony, contact friends across the planet through amateur radio, and explore the cyber world; and

WHEREAS, Jim exemplifies the high ethical standards and complete professionalism of an outstanding political reporter and commentator; he will be missed by his Tennessee viewers and the members of the General Assembly alike; and

WHEREAS, Throughout a remarkable career, noted for its consistent dedication to concise and unbiased reporting, Mr. Travis has won profound respect and admiration from his peers and his audience alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Jim Travis our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.